(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Criticism of Bullet Proof Jackets purchased by CAG

5114. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the news-item 'CAG blasts bullet proof jackets purchase' appearing in the 'Statesman' dated 31st March, 2002;

(b) if so, the details of this sub-standard defence purchase castigated by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken in this regard to identify person(s) responsible for the purchase and to initiate proceedings against them?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The report of the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) relates to procurement of 32,800 bullet proof patkas whereas the news-item deals with bullet proof jackets.

(c) Does not arise in view of (b) above.

Stoppage of manufacturing spares by Russia for IAF Fleet

†5115. SHRI P. K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Russia have recently discontinued the manufacture of essential spare-part of the aircrafts supplied to Indian Air Force;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, whether this has effected adversely repair works in the maintenance units of Indian Air Force; and

(c) if so, what steps have been taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Involving private sector for manufacturing components for Defence Aircrafts

5116. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Hindustan Aeronautics Limited proposes to involve private sector for manufacturing components and equipments of Defence Aircrafts and Helicopters;

(b) if so, the plans made for technology transfer to the private industries in this regard; and

(c) the response received so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Plans for out sourcing of tooling and aircraft components have been formulated. Private industries will be assisted by providing technical guidance to meet the quality standards required for aircraft tooling and components. Transfer of technology is also envisaged in specified areas.

(c) A number of private industries have come forward to offer their services to HAL in the areas on manufacture of components and toolings.